

Amendment and Response  
Serial No. 09/478,099  
Page 2 of 12

### AMENDMENTS

Prior to further examination, please amend the application as follows.

#### In the specification

On page 1, immediately after the heading "Cross Reference to Related Applications" amend the paragraph starting with "This application" and ending with "1999." to read

A1 -- This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/114,905, filed January 5, 1999. --

#### In the claims

Cancel claims 19 and 20 without prejudice to their subsequent reintroduction into this case or their introduction into a subsequently filed continuation or divisional application.

Amend claims 1-18 as follows:

- A2
1. (Amended) A method of delivering a nucleic acid molecule into a mammalian eye, the method comprising contacting a scleral surface of the eye with a nucleic acid molecule having a molecular weight no greater than 150 kDa such that the nucleic acid passes through the sclera and into the interior of the eye.
  2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid has a molecular weight of at least 70 kDa.
  3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid has a molecular weight of at least 100 kDa.
  4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the nucleic acid has a molecular weight of at least 120 kDa.
  5. (Amended) A method of delivering a nucleic acid molecule into a mammalian eye, the method comprising contacting a scleral surface of the eye with a nucleic acid molecule having a molecular radius of at least 0.5 nm so that the nucleic acid passes through the sclera and into the interior of the eye.